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(54) **STEREO VISION VIEWING SYSTEMS**

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**G02B 5/08** (2006.01)

**H04N 13/04** (2006.01)

**G02B 27/01** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ..... **H04N 13/0495** (2013.01); **G02B 27/0172** (2013.01); **G02B 27/2278** (2013.01); **H04N 13/044** (2013.01); **G02B 2027/0114** (2013.01); **G02B 2027/0127** (2013.01); **G02B 2027/0134** (2013.01); **G02B 2027/0178** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None

See application file for complete search history.

(56)

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\* cited by examiner

*Primary Examiner* — Jade R Chwasz

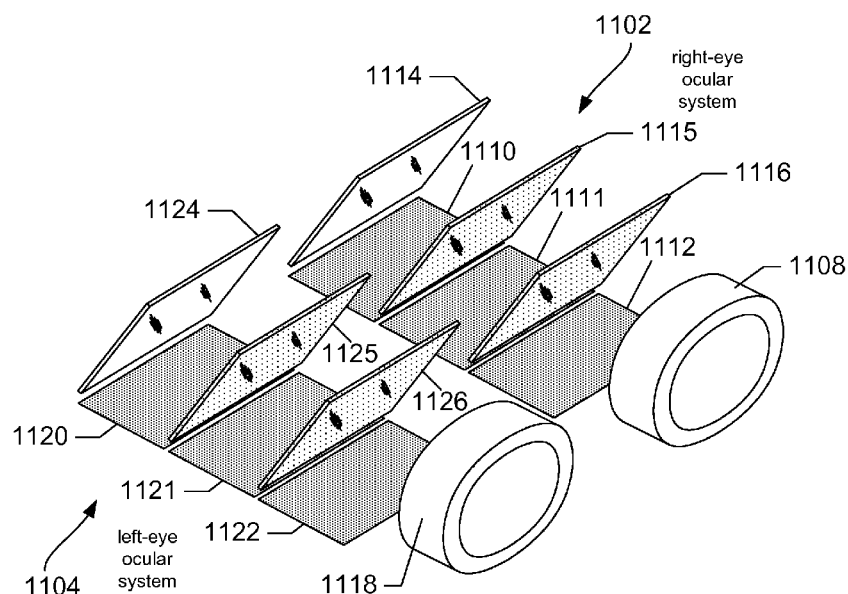
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(57)

**ABSTRACT**

Various embodiments of the present invention are directed to display systems for viewing three-dimensional images. In one aspect, a viewing system that enables a viewer to perceive depth in a three-dimensional image includes a right-eye ocular system positioned in the line of sight of the viewer's right eye, and a left-eye ocular system positioned in the line of sight of the viewer's left eye. The right-eye ocular system and the left-eye ocular system are configured to display corresponding stereo right-eye and left-eye image pairs of the three-dimensional image at various distances from the viewer's eyes.

**14 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets**



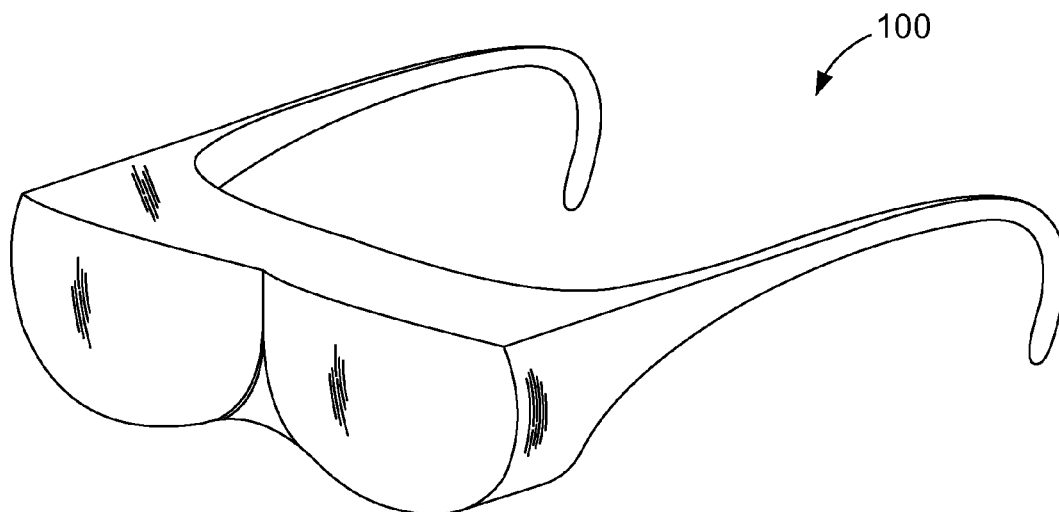


FIGURE 1A

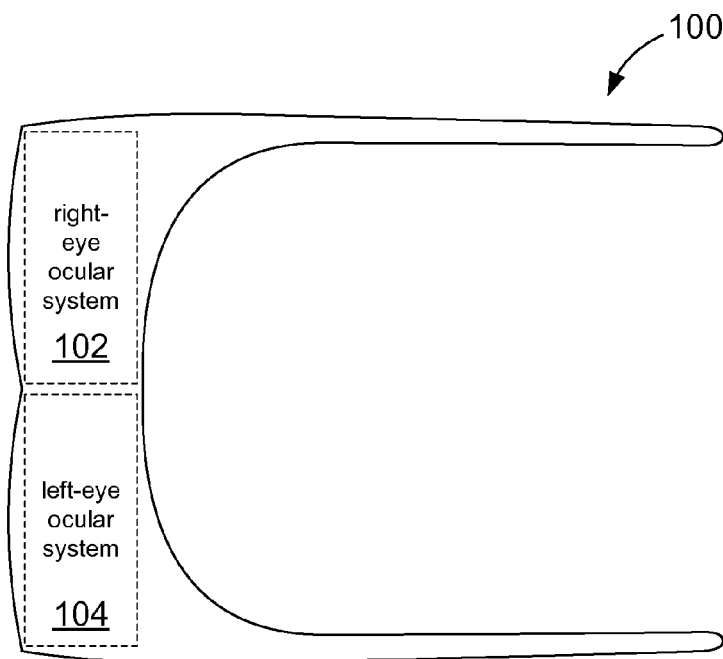


FIGURE 1B

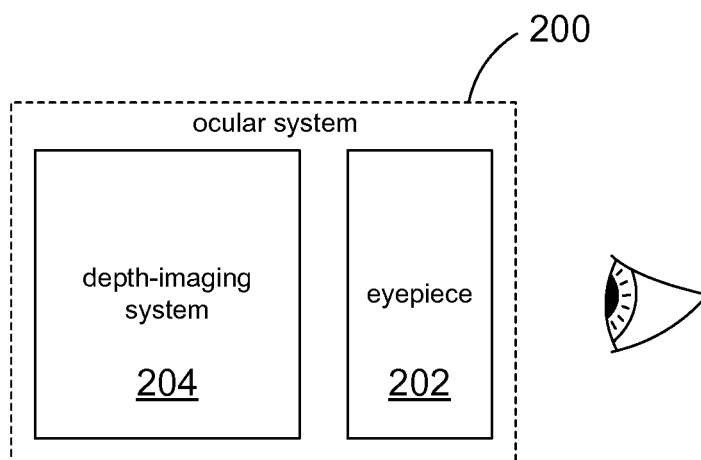


FIGURE 2

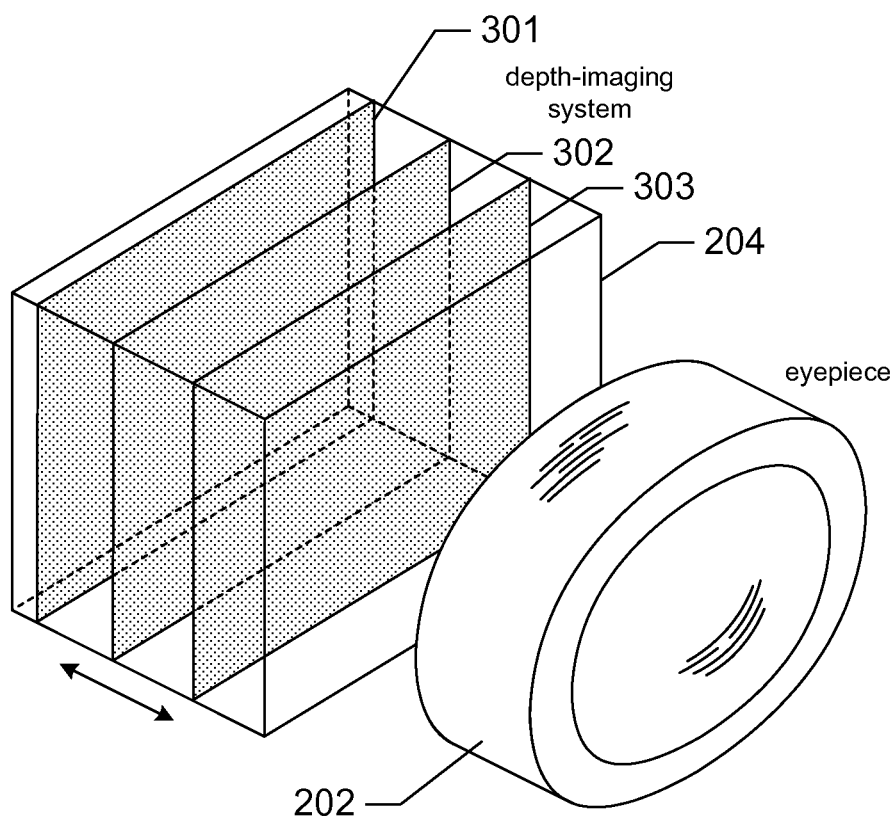


FIGURE 3

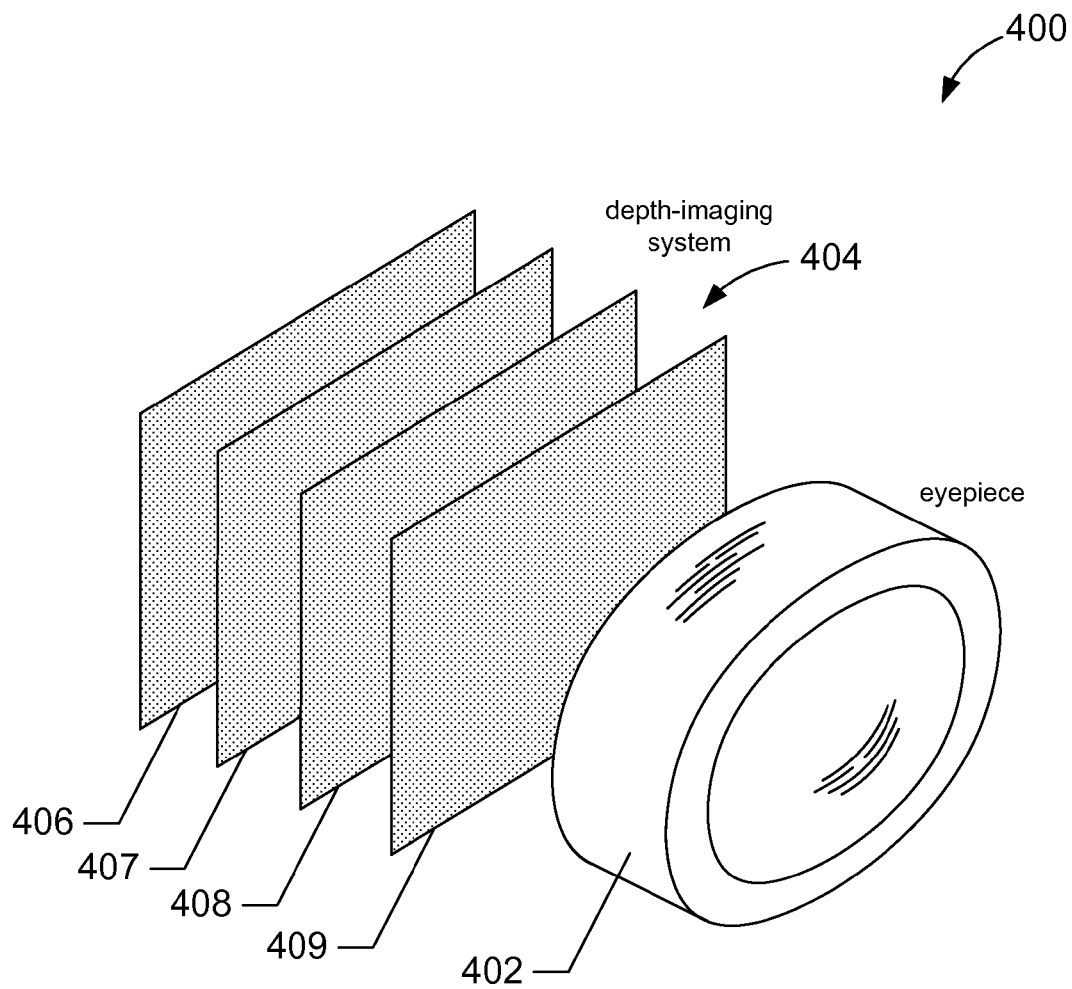
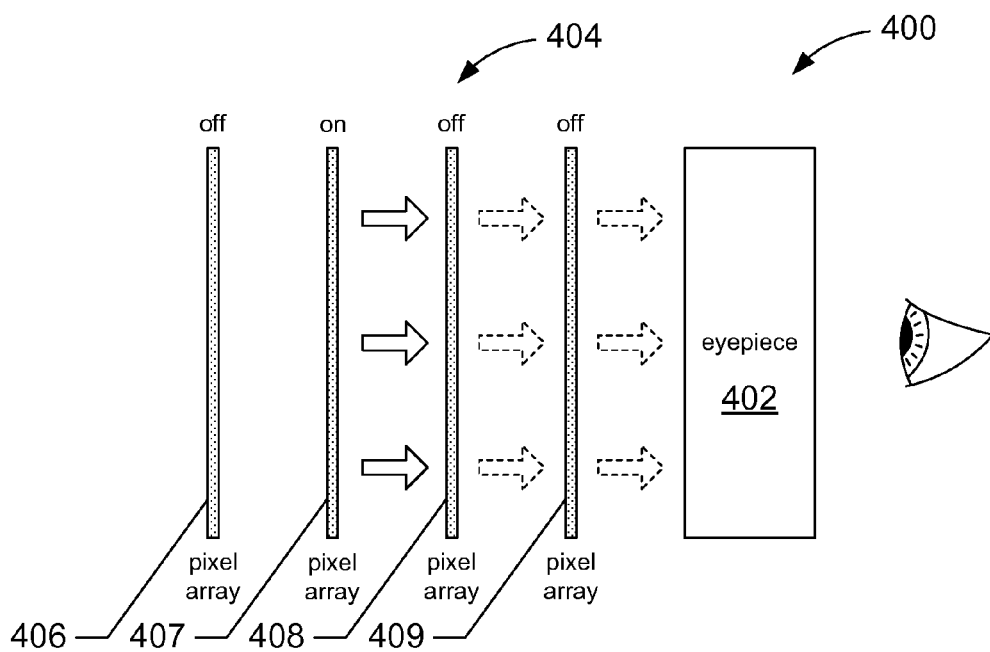
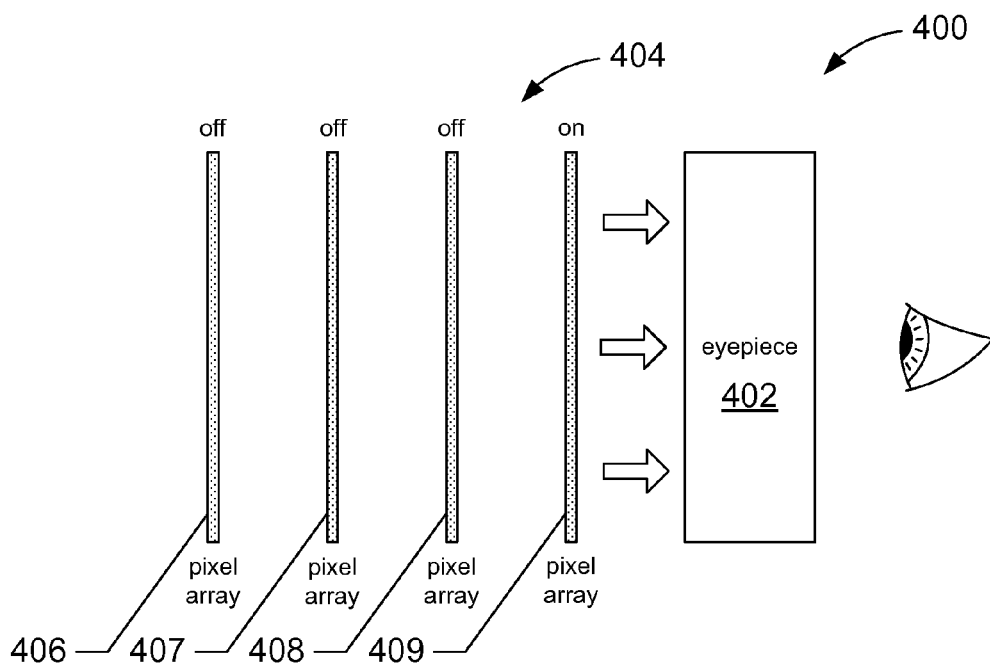


FIGURE 4



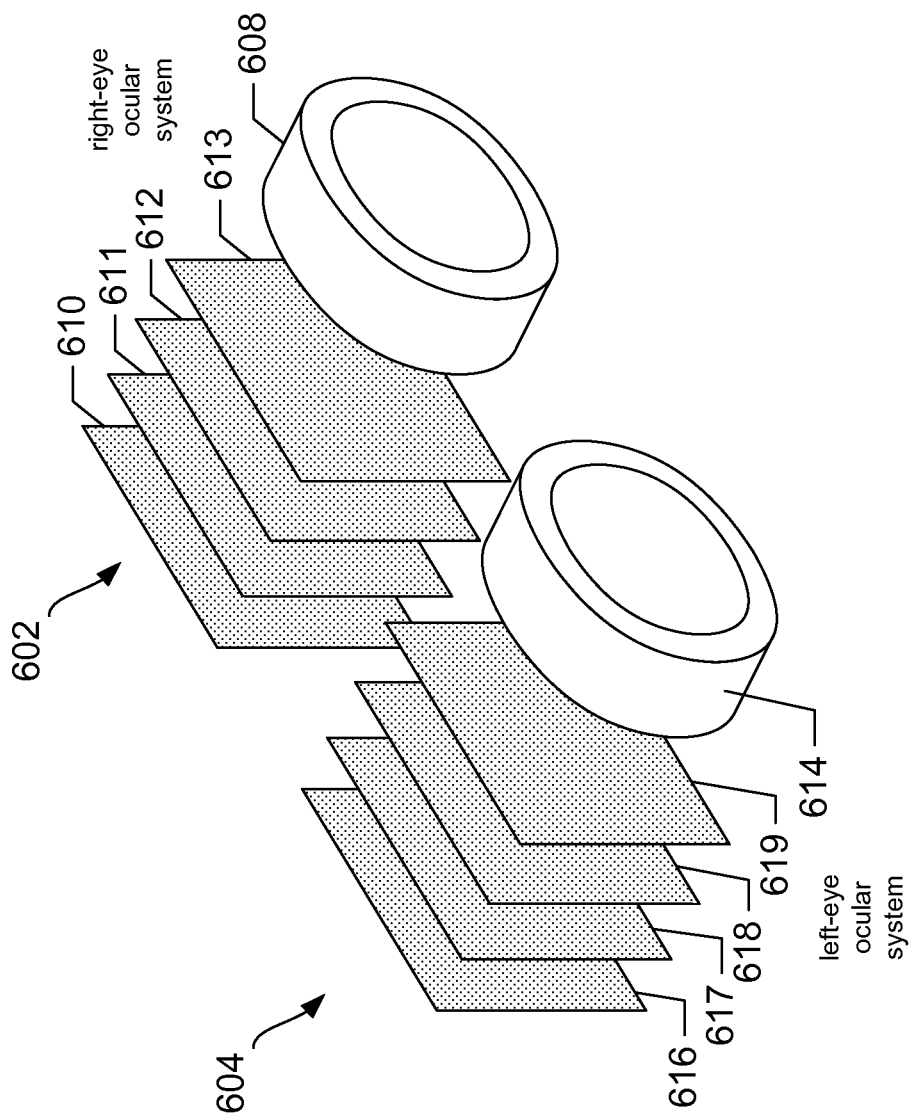


FIGURE 6

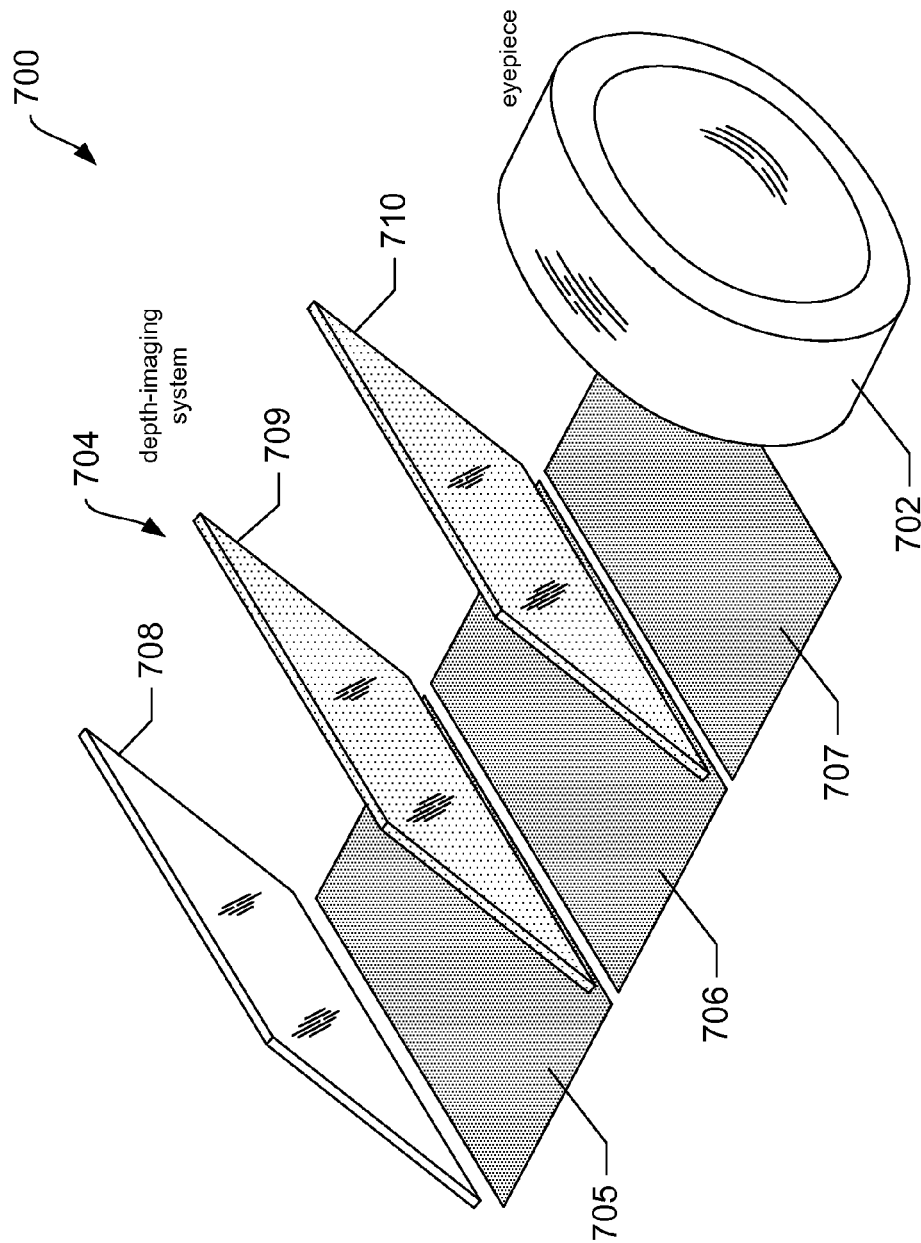


FIGURE 7

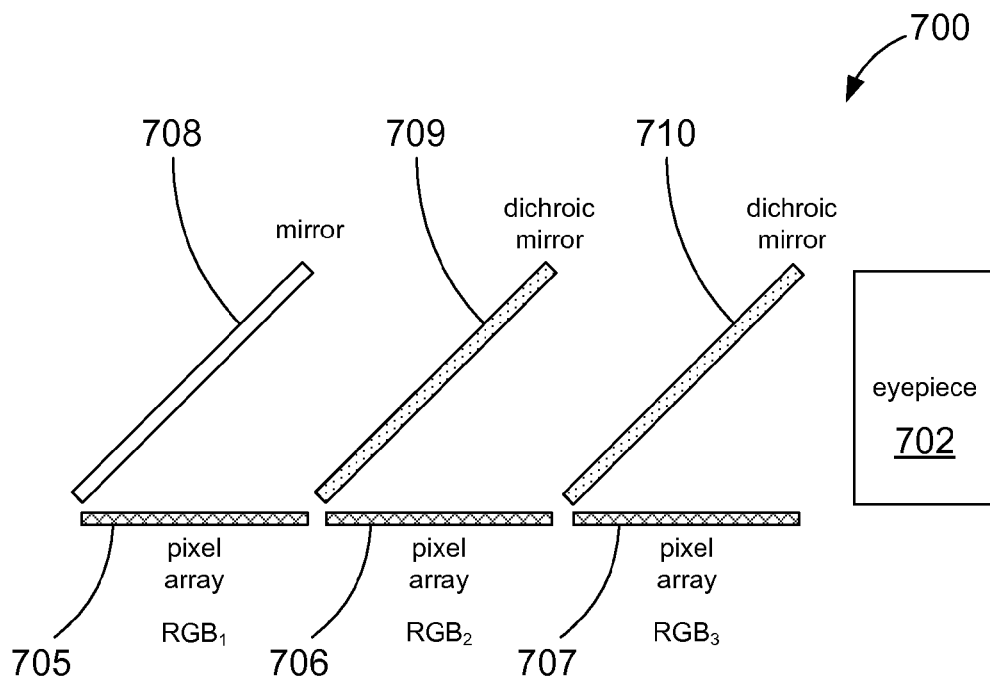


FIGURE 8A

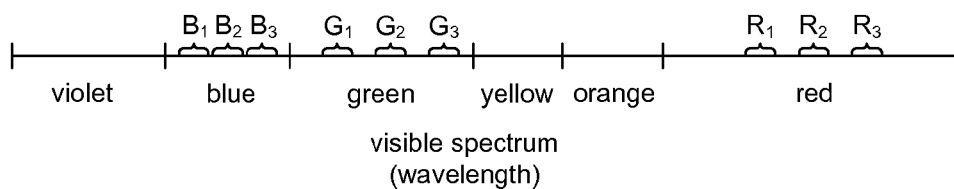


FIGURE 8B



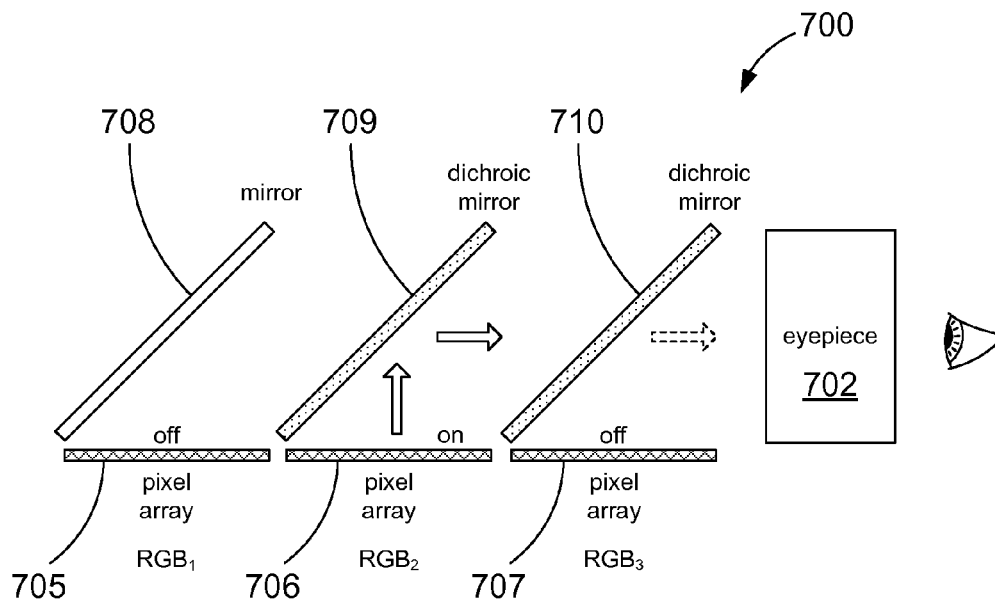


FIGURE 9

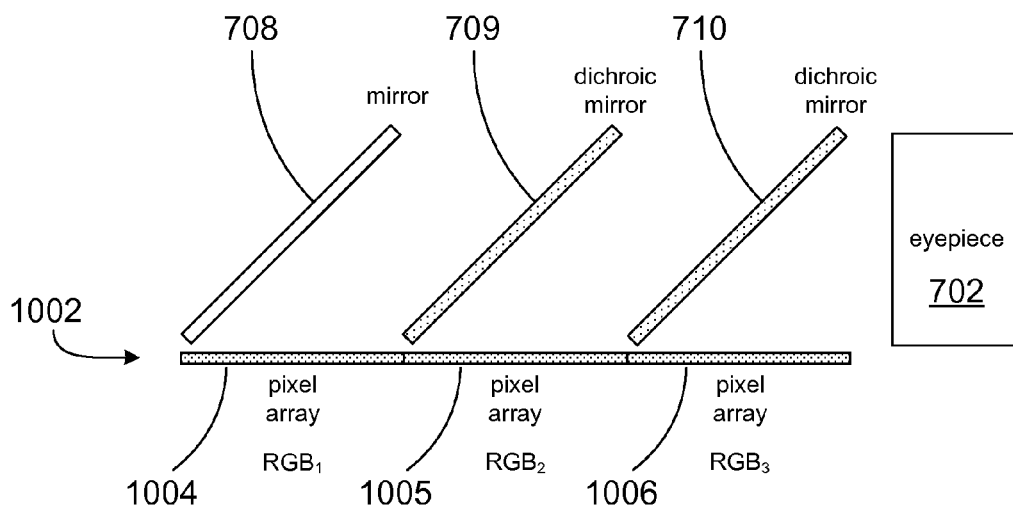
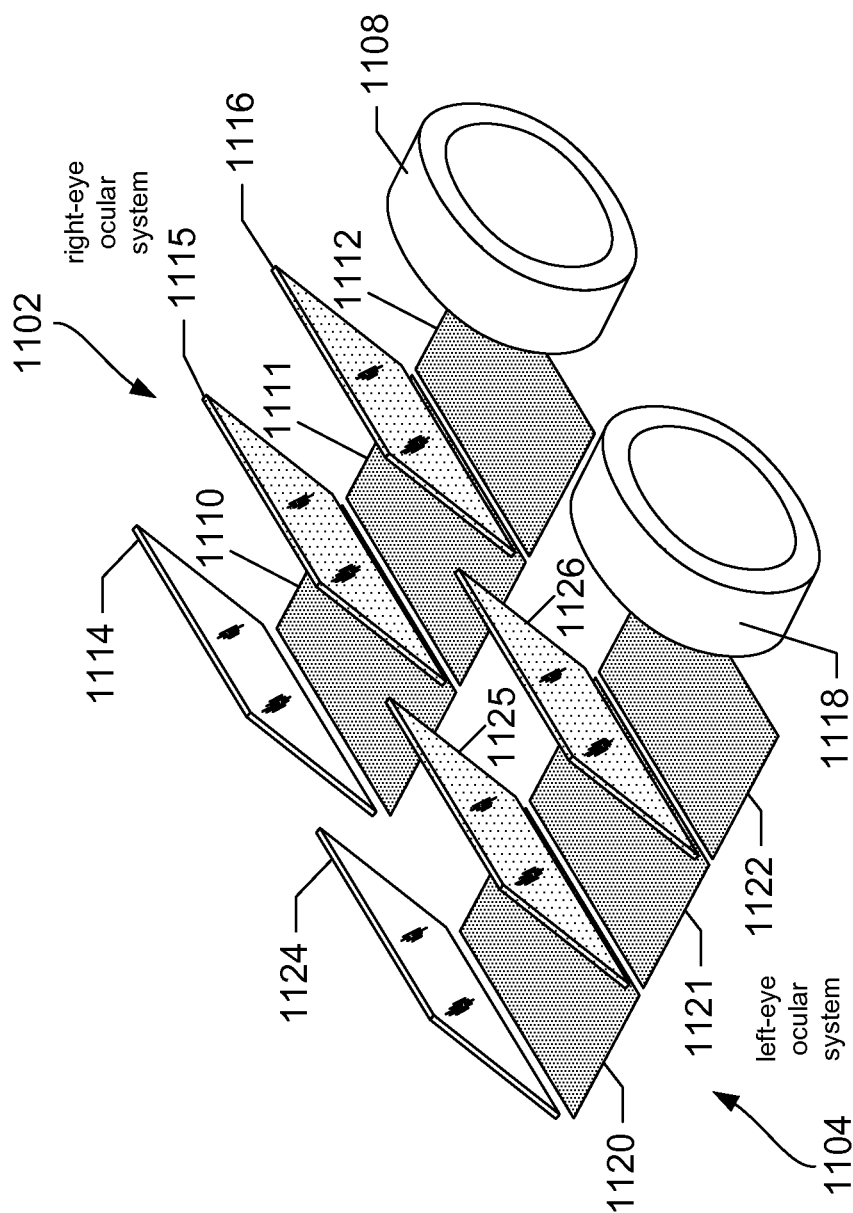


FIGURE 10



# FIGURE 11

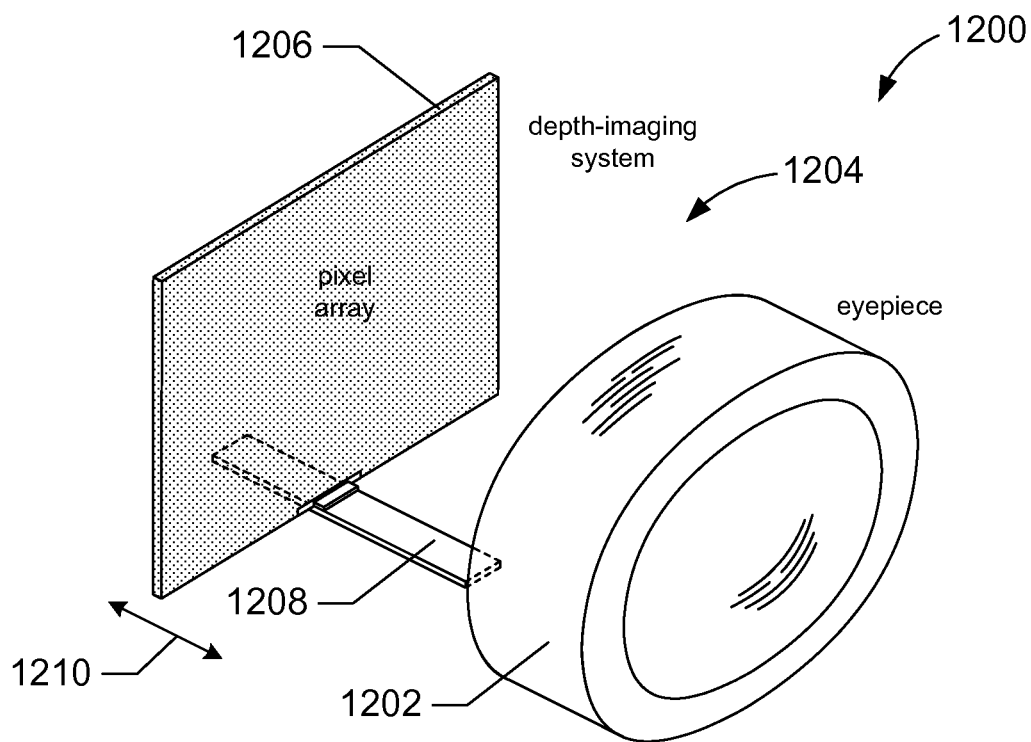


FIGURE 12A

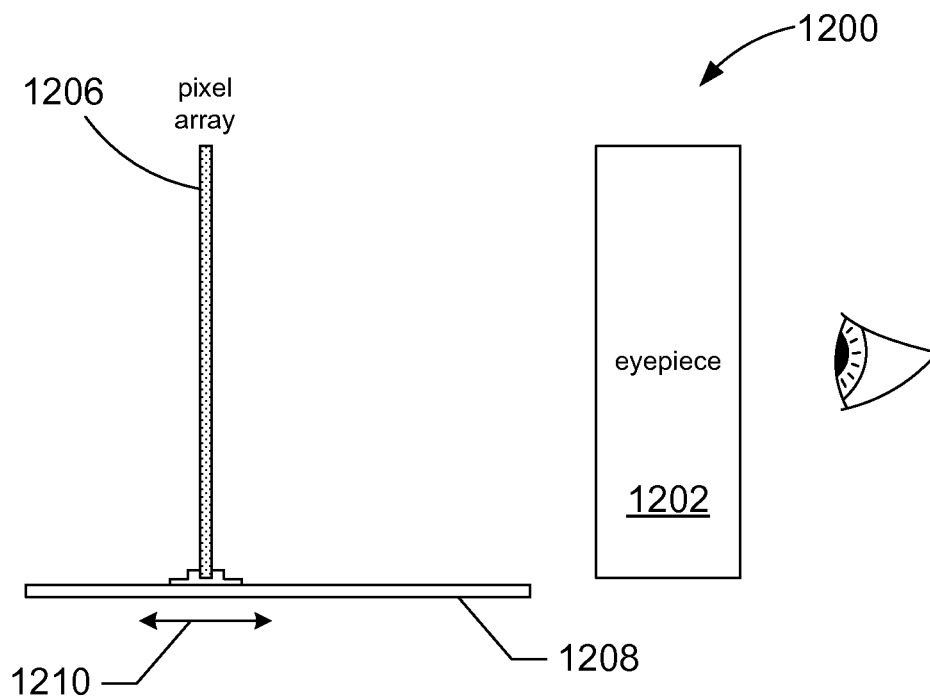
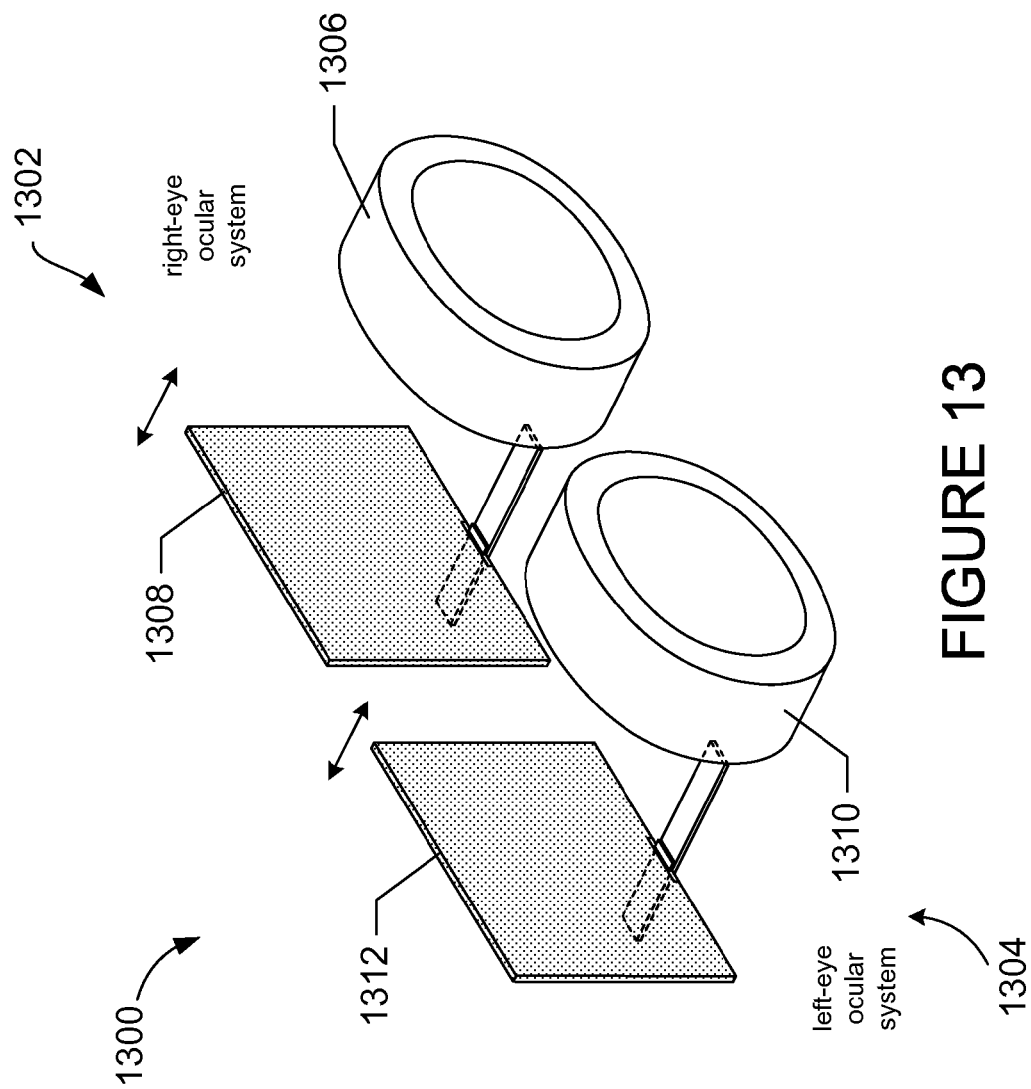


FIGURE 12B



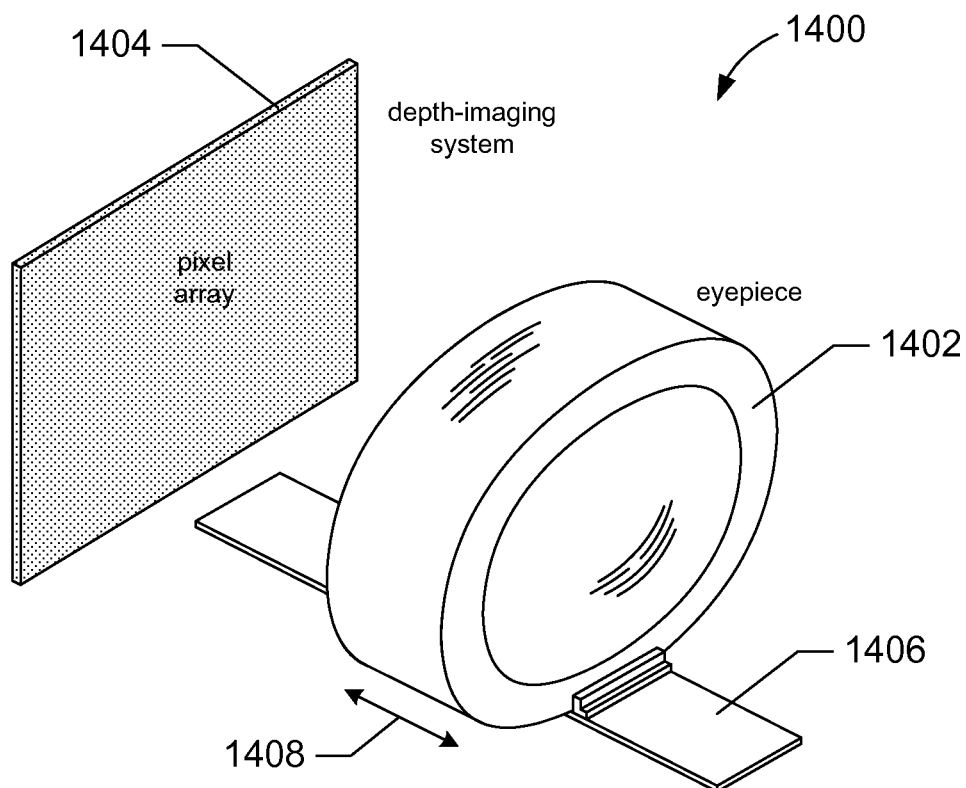


FIGURE 14A

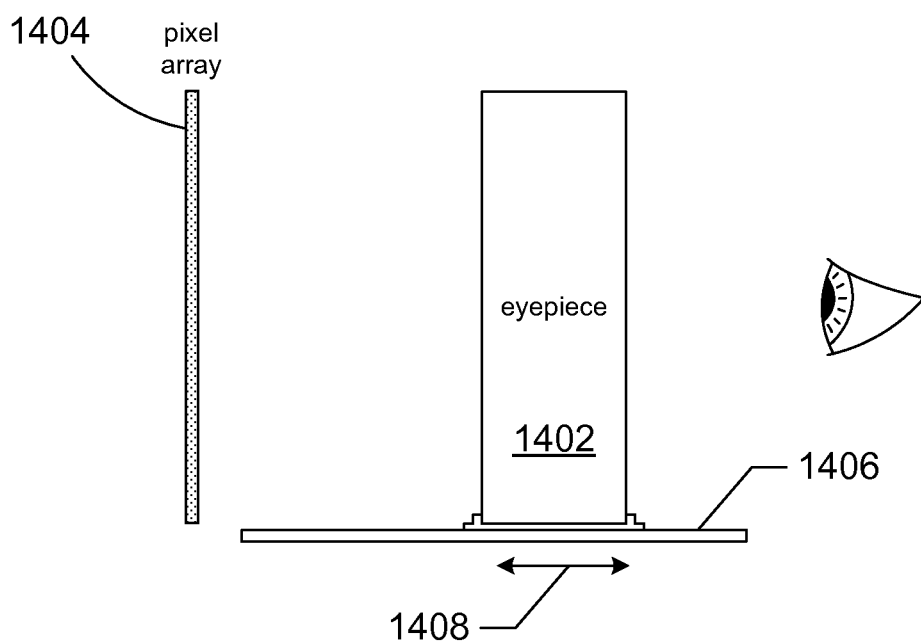


FIGURE 14B

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## STEREO VISION VIEWING SYSTEMS

## TECHNICAL FIELD

Embodiments of the present invention relate to stereo display technology.

## BACKGROUND

Stereopsis is a visual process in which a viewer perceives depth in an image of a scene by presenting the viewer's left-eye viewpoint with a first projection of the scene and presenting the viewer's right-eye viewpoint with a second but different projection of the same scene. Stereopsis is processed in the visual cortex in binocular cells having receptive fields in different horizontal positions in the viewer's two eyes. Binocular cells are active only when its preferred stimulus is in the correct position in the left eye and in the correct position in the right eye, making the binocular cells disparity detectors. When a viewer stares at a main object, the viewer's two eyes converge so that the object appears at the center of the retina in both eyes. Other objects around the main object appear shifted in relation to the main object. Because each eye is in a different horizontal position, each eye has a slightly different perspective on a scene yielding different retinal images. When the relative orientations of these two projections are correct, the viewer's brain ideally interprets the visual differences between the images as a single undistorted three-dimensional image.

In recent years, the advent of stereo display technologies enabling viewers to perform stereopsis with two-dimensional displays has been gaining interest and acceptance. With typical stereo display technology, viewers are required to wear eye glasses that control the visual content delivered to each eye. However, it is typically the case that the relative orientations of the projections received by the viewer are correct only for certain viewing locations, such as locations where a viewer's view is orthogonal to the center of a display. By contrast, viewers watching the same display outside these viewing locations experience a re-projection error that manifests as a vertical misalignment of the visual content received by the eyes of the viewers. If the images are very different, then in some cases one image at a time may be seen, a phenomenon known as binocular rivalry. Another type of visual artifact in typical stereo display technologies is that foreground and background objects often appear with the same focus. In order to produce a realistic three-dimensional viewing experience close objects should appear out of focus when the viewer focuses on more distant objects in the same image, and vice versa. These kinds of visual artifacts can be distracting and are cumulative to most viewers, leading to eye strain, nausea, fatigue, and possibly rejection of the stereo display technology. Thus, mere below threshold objectionableness may not be sufficient for permitting the presence of such artifacts.

Designers and manufacturers of stereo display systems continue to seek improvements that reduce the adverse effects associated with typical stereo display technology.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1A-1B show an isometric view and a top plan view of an example three-dimensional display system configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

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FIG. 2 shows a schematic representation of an ocular system configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 3 shows an isometric view and schematic representation of an ocular system configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 4 shows an example first ocular system configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIGS. 5A-5B show side views of the first ocular system operated in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 6 shows a three-dimensional display system configured with two of the first ocular systems in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 7 shows an example second ocular system configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 8A shows a side view of the second ocular system operated in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 8B shows a representation of example portions of the electromagnetic spectrum used to implement the second ocular system in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 9 shows a side view of the second ocular system operated in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 10 show a side view of a third ocular system operated in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 11 shows a three-dimensional display system configured with two of the second ocular systems in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIGS. 12A-12B show isometric and side views of a fourth ocular system configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 13 shows a three-dimensional display system configured with two of the fourth ocular systems in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIGS. 14A-14B show isometric and side views of a fifth ocular system configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Various embodiments of the present invention are directed to display systems for viewing three-dimensional images. The display systems can be implemented in a headset worn by a viewer. FIGS. 1A-1B show an isometric view and a top plan view of an example three-dimensional display system **100** configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 1A, the display system **100** is implemented as a headset that resembles eye glasses configured to substantially encase the viewer's eyes to prevent extraneous light from entering the headset and interfering with images presented to the viewer's eyes. The top plan view shown in FIG. 1B reveals that the display system **100** includes separate ocular systems identified as a right-eye ocular system **102** and a left-eye ocular system **104**. The right-eye and left-eye ocular systems **102** and **104** are configured and operated to produce stereo right-eye and left-eye image pairs. The viewer experiences a realistic three-dimensional viewing experience because the right-eye and left-eye ocular systems present the viewer with images of objects in a scene at different distances from the viewer's eyes. The ocular systems enable the viewer to focus on stereo image pairs of

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particular objects, while objects located at other distances appear out of focus. In other words, as part of the three-dimensional viewing experience, the ocular systems **102** and **104** can be operated so that a viewer can focus on foreground, background, and intermediate objects of a scene.

Headset embodiments of the present invention are not limited to resembling eye glasses. In other embodiments, in an attempt to entirely eliminate extraneous light from entering the display system, the headset can be configured to resemble eye goggles that fully encase the viewer's eyes and orbits. In still other embodiments where extraneous light may not be an appreciable issue, the headset can be configured to resemble a visor with the right-eye and left-eye ocular systems suspended from a visor in front of the right eye and left eye of the viewer.

FIG. 2 shows a schematic representation of an ocular system **200** configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The ocular system **200** can be operated as a right-eye ocular system or a left-eye ocular system in the headsets described above with reference to FIG. 1. The ocular system **200** includes an eyepiece **202** and a depth-imaging system **204**. The depth-imaging system **204** is configured to display images of various objects of a scene at different distances from the viewer's eye, and the viewer uses the eyepiece **202** to focus on the images.

FIG. 3 shows an isometric view and schematic representation of the ocular system **200** in operation. In order to create depth in an image of a scene, the depth-image system **204** displays various images of the scene along the line of sight of a viewer looking through the eyepiece, each image displaying objects at different distances from the eyepiece **202**. In the example of FIG. 3, depth-imaging system **204** displays three separate images **301-303** located along the line of sight of a viewer looking through the eyepiece **202**. Each image is located at a different distance from the eyepiece **202** enabling each image to display objects of the same scene at different distances from the eyepiece **202**. For example, objects displayed in the image **303** appear closer to the viewer than do objects displayed in the image **301**.

In certain embodiments, the eyepiece **202** is fixed. The effective focal length of the eyepiece **202** can be fixed so that objects displayed in the image **301** appear to be infinitely far away, in terms of focus, while objects in closer displayed images **302** and **303** appear closer. In other words, the focal length of the eyepiece **202** is approximately equal to the distance between image **301** and the eyepiece **202**. With the eyepiece **202** fixed, the viewer decides which image to focus on by adjusting his/her individual eye focus, just as an individual does in real life. For example, the viewer can perceive depth in the scene by 1) focusing on image **303** to perceive close-up objects, 2) focusing on image **302** to perceive medium range objects, and 3) focusing on image **301** to perceive far away objects. Embodiments of the present invention may also include separate adjustment knobs (not shown) for the left- and right-ocular systems allowing the viewer to separately adjust the focal length of each eyepiece to accommodate for visual disparity in the viewer's eyes.

Displaying the images **301-303** at various distances from the viewer's eye can be encoded in instructions associated with a motion picture, set of images, video game, or other types of video display media. For example, instructions for determining which objects in scenes of a motion picture get displayed in the images **301-303** can be encoded in the motion picture data.

Various embodiments for implementing the viewing system **100** and the ocular systems **102** and **104** are now described with reference to FIGS. 4-14.

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FIG. 4 shows an example ocular system **400** configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The ocular system **400** includes an eyepiece **402** and a depth-imaging system **404**. In the example of FIG. 4, the depth-imaging system **404** includes a pixel array **406** and three two-dimensional emissive pixel arrays **407-409**. The pixel arrays **406-409** are located along the line of sight of a viewer looking through the eyepiece **402**. Each emissive pixel array is configured to display an image and transmit images displayed by the one or more pixel arrays located behind it. In certain embodiments, the emissive pixel arrays **407-409** can be composed of an array of transparent light-emitting devices. For example, the light-emitting devices can be primary color (e.g., red, green, or blue) organic light-emitting devices that are grouped to form color pixels and are sandwiched between transparent or semi-transparent contacts. The emissive pixel array can be composed of primary color light-emitting diodes ("LED") that are grouped to form color pixels and sandwiched between transparent or semi-transparent contacts or a liquid crystal display ("LCD"). For pixels of the LED-based, or LCD-based, emissive pixel arrays **407-409**, the color pixels are spaced to allow transmission of light from pixel arrays located behind it. The pixel array **406** located farthest from the eyepiece **402** can be an LED or an LCD display and does not also have to be transparent.

FIGS. 5A-5B show side views of the ocular system **400** operated in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. A turned "on" pixel array displays objects of a scene that appear to a viewer to be located at a particular distance from the viewer. For example, in FIG. 5A, pixel arrays **406-408** are turned "off." In other words, pixel arrays **406-408** are not operated to display images of a scene. On the other hand, pixel array **409** is turned "on" to display objects of the scene that appear close to the viewer. The viewer looks through the eyepiece **402** and focuses on the image displayed on the pixel array **409**. In order to create depth in the image, in FIG. 5B, arrays **406**, **408**, and **409** are turned "off" and the pixel array **407** is turned "on." The image displayed on the pixel array **407** can be of objects that appear farther from the viewer than the objects displayed in pixel array **409**. The image is transmitted through the pixel arrays **408** and **409**. In other embodiments, two or more of the pixel arrays can be simultaneously turned "on." For example, suppose pixel array **407** displays objects of a scene that are to appear farther away from the viewer than are different objects of the same scene displayed in the pixel array **409**. Depth can be created when the viewer focuses on particular objects displayed in the pixel array **407** and then switches to viewing the objects displayed in the pixel array **409**.

In order to create a three-dimensional viewing experience with depth focusing, stereo right-eye and left-eye image pairs ("stereo image pairs") at different depths can be displayed on the pixel arrays of the right-eye and left-eye depth-image systems. FIG. 6 shows a right-eye ocular system **602** and a left-eye ocular system **604** of a three-dimensional display system configured and operated in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The right-eye ocular system **602** includes an eyepiece **608** and a depth-imaging system composed of four pixel arrays **610-613** configured and operated as described above with reference to FIGS. 4-5. The left-eye ocular system **604** includes an eyepiece **614** and a depth-imaging system composed of four pixel arrays **616-619** also configured and operated as described above with reference to FIGS. 4-5. The left-eye pixel arrays **616-619** show left-eye view points of objects of a scene at various depths, and the right-eye pixel arrays **610-613** show right-eye view points of objects of the same scene at various

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depths. The right-eye and left-eye ocular systems **602** and **604** can be operated to produce a three-dimensional viewing experience by displaying stereo image pairs of objects and backgrounds that are supposed to appear farthest from a viewer in the pixel arrays **610** and **616**. Stereo image pairs of objects in the scene that appear closest to the viewer are displayed in the pixel arrays **613** and **619**. Stereo image pairs of objects that appear at intermediate distances from the viewer can be displayed on the pixel arrays **611** and **617** and/or **612** and **618**. In order to create depth, the viewer selectively focuses on different stereo image pairs.

Note that the ocular system **400** is presented as an example embodiment and similarly configured ocular systems are not limited to three emissive pixel arrays. In other embodiments, an ocular system can be configured with any suitable number of emissive pixel arrays. For example, certain ocular systems can be composed of as few as two emissive pixel arrays while other ocular systems can be composed of four or more emissive pixel arrays.

FIG. 7 shows an example ocular system **700** configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The ocular system **700** includes an eyepiece **702** and a depth-imaging system **704**. The depth-imaging system **704** includes three pixel arrays **705-707**, a mirror **708**, and two dichroic mirrors **709** and **710**. The pixel arrays **705-707** can be LED or LCD displays. Each pixel array **705-707** is configured with primary color pixels that emit light in different red, green, and blue portions of the visible portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. The mirrors **708-710** are oriented to reflect images along the line of sight of a viewer looking through the eyepiece **702**.

FIG. 8A shows a side view of the ocular system **700** operated in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Pixel array **705** is configured with red, green, and blue pixels that emit light using a first set of wavelengths denoted by  $RGB_1$ ; pixel array **706** is configured with red, green, and blue pixels that emit light using a second set of wavelengths denoted by  $RGB_2$ ; and pixel array **707** is configured with red, green, and blue pixels that emit light using a third set of wavelengths denoted by  $RGB_3$ . FIG. 8B shows an example representation of the visible portion of the electromagnetic spectrum and identifies example portions of the electromagnetic spectrum corresponding to the  $RGB_1$ ,  $RGB_2$ , and  $RGB_3$  sets of wavelengths. For example, red, green, and blue portions of the visible spectrum, denoted by  $R_1$ ,  $G_1$ , and  $B_1$ , form the set of wavelengths  $RGB_1$ . Color images are produced by the pixel array **705** using pixels that emit red light in the  $R_1$  portion of the visible spectrum, emit green light in the  $G_1$  portion of the visible spectrum, and emit blue light in the  $B_1$  portion of the visible spectrum.

FIG. 9 shows a side view of the ocular system **700** operated in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The mirror **708** is positioned to reflect images displayed by the pixel array **705** toward the eyepiece **702**. The dichroic mirror **709** is a partially reflective mirror configured to reflect wavelengths in the set  $RGB_2$  and transmit wavelengths in the set  $RGB_1$ . In other words, the dichroic mirror **709** transmits images produced by the pixel array **705** and reflects images produced by the pixel array **706** toward the eyepiece **702**. The dichroic mirror **710** is a partially reflective mirror configured to reflect wavelengths in the set  $RGB_3$  and transmit wavelengths in the sets  $RGB_1$  and  $RGB_2$ . In other words, the dichroic mirror **710** transmits images produced by the pixel arrays **705** and **706** and reflects images produced by the pixel array **707** toward the eyepiece **702**.

In certain embodiments, the pixel arrays **705-707** can be operated separately, where each turned “on” pixel array dis-

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plays objects of the same scene at different distances from the viewer’s eye. For example, as shown in the example of FIG. 9, the pixel array **706** displays an image that is reflected off of the dichroic mirror **709**, and the pixel arrays **705** and **706** are turned “off.” In other embodiments, two or more of the pixel arrays can be simultaneously turned “on.” For example, all three of the pixel arrays **705-707** can be turned “on” to display different objects of a scene that appear at different distances from the viewer’s eye.

In other embodiments, rather than using three separate pixel arrays **705-707**, a single pixel array configured with three separate zones can be used, each zone is configured to display an image using one of the three sets of wavelengths  $RGB_1$ ,  $RGB_2$ , and  $RGB_3$ . FIG. 10 shows a side view of an ocular system **1000** operated in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The ocular system **1000** includes the eyepiece **702** and mirrors **708-710**, but the three separate pixel arrays **705-707** of the ocular system **700** have been replaced by a single pixel array **1002**. The pixel array **1002** is composed of three separate zones **1004-1006**. The zones **1004-1006** are configured with red, green, and blue pixels corresponding to the sets  $RGB_1$ ,  $RGB_2$ , and  $RGB_3$ , respectively, and can be operated in the same manner as the pixel arrays **705-707**, as described above with reference to FIG. 9.

FIG. 11 shows a right-eye ocular system **1102** and a left-eye ocular system **1104** of a three-dimensional display system configured and operated in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The right-eye ocular system **1102** includes an eyepiece **1108** and a depth-imaging system composed of three pixel arrays **1110-1112**, mirror **1114**, and dichroic mirrors **1115** and **1116**, as described above with reference to FIGS. 7-8. The left-eye ocular system **1104** includes an eyepiece **1118** and a depth-imaging system composed of three pixel arrays **1120-1122**, mirror **1124**, and dichroic mirrors **1125** and **1126**, as described above with reference to FIGS. 7-8. The left-eye pixel arrays **1120-1122** show left-eye view points of objects of a scene at various depths, and the right-eye pixel arrays **1110-1112** show right-eye view points of objects of the same objects and scene at various depths. The right-eye and left-eye ocular systems **1102** and **1104** can be operated to produce a three-dimensional viewing experience by displaying stereo image pairs of objects and backgrounds that are supposed to appear farthest from a viewer in the pixel arrays **1110** and **1120**. Stereo image pairs of objects in the scene that appear closest to the viewer are displayed in the pixel arrays **1112** and **1122**. Stereo image pairs of objects that appear at intermediate distances from the viewer can be displayed on the pixel arrays **1111** and **1121**. In order to create depth, the viewer selectively focuses on different stereo image pairs.

Note that the ocular system **700** is presented as an example embodiment and similarly configured ocular systems are not limited to three pixel arrays and corresponding mirrors. In other embodiments, an ocular system can be configured with any suitable number of pixel arrays and corresponding mirrors. For example, certain ocular systems can be composed with as few as two pixel arrays while other ocular systems can be composed of four or more pixel arrays.

FIGS. 12A-12B show isometric and side views of an example ocular system **1200** configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The ocular system **1200** includes an eyepiece **1202** and a depth-imaging system **1204**. The depth-imaging system **1204** includes a single pixel array **1206** mounted on a mechanized



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platform **1208** for sliding the pixel array **1206** toward and away from the eyepiece **1202**, as represented by directional arrow **1210**.

FIG. **13** shows a right-eye ocular system **1302** and a left-eye ocular system **1304** of a three-dimensional display system configured and operated in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The right-eye ocular system **1302** includes an eyepiece **1306** and a depth-imaging system comprising a pixel array **1308** mounted on a mechanized platform. The left-eye ocular system **1304** includes an eyepiece **1310** and a depth-imaging system comprising a pixel array **1308** mounted on a mechanized platform. The ocular systems **1302** and **1304** are operated as described above with reference to FIG. **12**. The left-eye pixel array **1312** shows left-eye view points of a scene, and the right-eye pixel array **1308** shows right-eye view points of the same scene. The right-eye and left-eye ocular systems **1302** and **1304** can be operated to produce a three-dimensional viewing experience with depth focusing by displaying stereo image pairs of objects and backgrounds that are supposed to appear farthest from a viewer by moving the pixel arrays **1308** and **1312** away from the eyepieces **1306** and **1310**. Stereo image pairs of objects in the scene that appear closest to the viewer are displayed by moving the pixel arrays **1308** and **1312** closer to the eyepieces **1306** and **1310**.

FIGS. **14A-14B** show isometric and side views of an example ocular system **1400** configured in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The ocular system **1400** includes an eyepiece **1402** and a fixed pixel array **1404**. The eyepiece **1402** is mounted on a mechanized platform **1406** for sliding the eyepiece **1402** toward and away from the pixel array **1404**, as represented by directional arrow **1408**. The ocular system **1400** can be implemented in a three-dimensional display system analogous to the left- and right-ocular systems **1302** and **1304** shown in FIG. **13** but with the eyepieces moved to control the distance to the stereo image pair displayed on the associated pixel arrays. In other embodiments, the eyepiece of the ocular system **1400** can be configured to focus the viewer's eye onto a particular image. For example, the eyepiece can be mechanically operated or the eyepiece can be a liquid-crystal lens. Depth in the scene can be created by operating the eyepiece to focus on one image and switch focus to a different image. For example, when the eyepiece is operated to switch focus from a first image to a second image located closer to the viewer's eye, objects in the second image appear closer to the viewer than do objects in the first image.

The foregoing description, for purposes of explanation, used specific nomenclature to provide a thorough understanding of the invention. However, it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that the specific details are not required in order to practice the invention. The foregoing descriptions of specific embodiments of the present invention are presented for purposes of illustration and description. They are not intended to be exhaustive of or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. Obviously, many modifications and variations are possible in view of the above teachings. The embodiments are shown and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention and its practical applications, to thereby enable others skilled in the art to best utilize the invention and various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated. It is intended that the scope of the invention be defined by the following claims and their equivalents:

The invention claimed is:

1. A viewing system that enables a viewer to perceive depth in a three-dimensional image, the system comprising:

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a right-eye ocular system positioned in the line of sight of the viewer's right eye; and

a left-eye ocular system positioned in the line of sight of the viewer's left eye, wherein the right-eye ocular system and the left-eye ocular system are configured to display corresponding stereo right-eye and left-eye image pairs of the three-dimensional image, each stereo image pair displayed at a different distance from the viewer's eyes such that the viewer perceives depth by focusing on a particular stereo image pair so that objects displayed in the particular stereo image pair appear in focus;

a first pixel array and one or more additional pixel arrays adjoining the first pixel array, where each of the first pixel array and each of the one or more additional pixel arrays are arranged in a coplanar manner; and

a first mirror corresponding to the first pixel array and one or more dichroic mirrors corresponding to the respective one or more additional pixel arrays, wherein each mirror is oriented to direct light emitted from the respective pixel array to the eyepiece.

2. The viewing system of claim 1, wherein each of the ocular systems further comprise

a depth-imaging system comprising the arrangement of the pixel arrays and mirrors, wherein the depth-imaging system is configured to display images of various objects of a scene at different distances from the eyepiece.

3. The viewing system of claim 2, wherein each of the additional pixel arrays is configured to display a respective image and transmit another image to the eyepiece as displayed by the one or more distal pixel arrays relative to the eyepiece with respect to the corresponding pixel array.

4. The viewing system of claim 2, wherein each pixel array displays an image, the dichroic mirrors are positioned between the mirror and the eyepiece, and the mirrors are oriented to reflect an image displayed by one of the pixel arrays along an optical through the eyepiece.

5. The viewing system of claim 4, wherein each pixel array further comprises red, green, and blue pixels that emit light in different red, green, and blue portions of the visible portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

6. The viewing system of claim 4, wherein each pixel array further comprises a single pixel array arranged in a plurality of portions corresponding to the respective first and additional pixel arrays such that each portion can be independently operated to display an image.

7. The viewing system of claim 6, wherein the dichroic mirrors are configured to reflect the image displayed by an associated portion of the single pixel array and transmit images displayed by the other portions of the single pixel arrays.

8. The viewing system of claim 6, wherein a given portion of the single pixel array displays a given image at a given distance from the eyepiece and another portion of the single pixel array displays another image at another distance from the eyepiece.

9. The viewing system of claim 2, wherein the depth-imaging system further comprises:

a pixel array; and

a mechanized platform coupled to the pixel array, wherein the pixel array is configured to display images of various objects of a scene, the mechanized platform is configured to move the pixel array to display the images at different distances from the viewer's eye, and the eyepiece is configured to adjust the focus of the viewer's eye onto the image.

10. The viewing system of claim 2, the depth imaging system further comprising a mechanized platform coupled to the eyepiece, wherein the pixel array is configured to display images of various objects of a scene and the mechanized platform is configured to move the eyepiece toward and away 5 from the pixel array.

11. The viewing system of claim 2, wherein the eyepiece further comprises a mechanically operated compound lens or a liquid crystal lens.

12. The viewing system of claim 1, wherein each additional 10 pixel array further comprises at least one of an array of transparent light-emitting devices and light-emitting devices that are spaced to allow transmission of light.

13. The viewing system of claim 1, wherein each pixel array is selectively activated and deactivated to display 15 images independent of or in combination with any other pixel array.

14. The viewing system of claim 1, wherein each pixel array emits light at a wavelength different from any other pixel array. 20

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